

REMARKS

The Applicants and the Attorneys for the Applicants thank the examiner for her time and effort at the interview on April 27, 2010. The Applicants and the Attorneys for the Applicants further appreciate the examiner's patience and interest in resolving the differences between the present invention and the prior art.

In light of the conversation on April 27, 2010, the applicants have further amended the claims to highlight the differences and incorporate the examiner's thoughtful recommendations. The amendments to claim 1, 13, and 20 are supported throughout the specification and in the claims as previously presented. Explicit support for the term protonate(d) can be found for example in paragraph [0109] wherein the term is used to convey the ionization of the amine functionality by the addition of a proton (H^+). Further support for the general use of the term protonate can be found on the attached page from a scientific dictionary.

The amendments to claim 25 are presented to clarify the scope and language of the claim. The amendments to claim 25 are fully supported by previously presented claim 25 and the support for amendments to claims 1, 13, and 20, as highlighted above.

As the examiner noted, the feature of the protonated oligomer or polymer was not taught or suggested by the prior art. The protonated oligomer or polymer is distinct and chemically very different from the grafted functional group of Barbee, and the grafted functional group of Barbee is excluded from the claimed composition through the use of exclusionary language in the amended claims. Furthermore, the protonated oligomer or polymer leads to the unexpected thermal stability as the applicant discussed with the examiner.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. In the event there is any remaining issues that the examiner believes can be resolved by telephone, the examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 474-6300.

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Respectfully submitted,

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